

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF SUMMER LANGUAGE TEACHERS WITH
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

1. SPEAKING FOR USSR MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (MIN ED),
YURIY BABYANSKIY, CHIEF OF SOVIET EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION
DELEGATION RECENTLY IN US, TOLD DEPARTMENT THAT MIN ED IS
INTERESTED IN INITIATING AN EXCHANGE OF SUMMER LANGUAGE
TEACHERS ALONG LINES OF MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION/IREX
EXCHANGE. HE SAID MIN ED WOULD PLAN TO HAVE ALL UNION
TEACHERS UNION ACT AS EXECUTIVE AGENT ON THE SOVIET SIDE
AND SUGGESTED PROGRAM LAST ONE MONTH.

2. REQUEST EMBASSY ADVISE ON DESIRABILITY OF MIN ED
PROPOSAL. OUR INITIAL REACTION WOULD BE POSITIVE IF
EMBASSY BELIEVES MIN ED LIKELY TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY
PROGRAM FOR US PARTICIPANTS AS IS NOW PROVIDED BY MGU UNDER
IREX EXCHANGE. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE TO MAKE CLEAR
THAT SOVIET PARTICIPANTS COULD TRAVEL ONLY AS TEACHERS
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AND NOT AS UNION OFFICIALS.

3. IF EMBASSY CONCLUDES EXCHANGE WORTH DOING, SUGGEST IT
BE INCLUDED IN COUNTRY PLAN. WE WOULD SUGGEST AN INITIAL
EXCHANGE OF 10 PERSONS FOR SIX WEEK PERIOD (WHICH WE
BELIEVE PREFERABLE TO FOUR) AND ESTIMATE COST AT
DOLS 25,000. WE WOULD APPROACH CIEE RE COSTS AND
POSSIBILITY OF ADMINISTERING PROGRAM FOR US SIDE IF
EMBASSY REACTION IS POSITIVE. PLEASE ADVISE. KISSINGER

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